FORUM

Let's talk calmly, now, about homosexual concerns

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By **Will Perkins**

Colorado for Family Values welcomes the change of tactics announced recently by Ground Zero, our local homosexual activist group.

We applaud Ground Zero for embracing this new, more positive course. No one benefited from the typical anti-Amendment 2 tactics of the past — tactics like storming political headquarters, dumping animal parts on opponents' doorsteps, throwing condoms at worshippers during church services, making death threats against leaders and their families, or desecrating churches and cemeteries. We also congratulate Ground Zero for moving beyond their national media campaign to brand our fair city as "the epicenter of hate" and Colorado as the "hate state."

Yes, we thank Ground Zero for pledging to end the "hate" talk. And yes, we welcome the chance to calmly and rationally discuss the merits of our relative positions.

Here are some pressing concerns we would like to discuss in this new-found state of calm and rational discourse. They include the extension of legal privileges to same-sex marriage, homosexuality in the military, and the promotion of homosexuality in our public schools.

First of all, the military. Obviously, military service is not a fundamental right. Many people are not physically, psychologically, mentally or philosophically suited for military service, and society does no damage to their constitutional rights by acknowledging their unsuitability. Furthermore, no person should be expected to shower, sleep or live in close quarters with others who are openly, sexually attracted to them. Morale, discipline, order and military objectives are all compromised when we ignore these basic facts. This is precisely why the Uniform Code of Military Justice declares sodomy — along with adultery and other heterosexual deviations — incompatible with military service.

The issue of extending legal privileges to same-sex marriages reaches into every corner of our society. People often forget the many requirements already in place regarding marriage. You must be of legal age to marry. You cannot marry a close relative or marry more than one person. You cannot marry an animal, even though some "sexual orientations" may desire this.

Now, nothing prevents someone from holding a ceremony or declaring undying love to someone they cannot legally marry. But the legal privileges reserved for marriage were created especially to encourage the union of one man and one woman, and to promote the many societal benefits of the family. That's why there is no "constitutional right" to have one's relationships endorsed by the legal stamp of approval.

By diluting the legal meaning of marriage, we imperil our children (especially those being placed for adoption) as well as the very fabric of the nuclear family in America. Today, statistic after statistic drives home the staggering toll our nation has suffered as a result of free sex, easy no-fault divorces, irresponsible out-of-wedlock births, and public policies which penalize families. Society's efforts would be better spent strengthening the nuclear family than redefining it.

We also must oppose the use of our public schools as centers to indoctrinate our children with pro-homosexual propaganda. The vast majority of reasonable parents, regardless of political persuasion or position on Amendment 2, see the unfairness in the National Education Association's advocacy of pro-gay teaching throughout the grades, its promotion of a "Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual History Month" and its call for pro-gay "sensitivity training" of students and teachers. Unless parents speak out against these abuses, we will watch our children become the forced guinea pigs of "politically correct" social engineers.

Remember, our position is not about condoning, either implicitly or explicitly, the mistreatment of those who, for whatever reason, practice homosexuality. Those who attack homosexuals can and must be dealt with according to current criminal laws.

In this new hate-free environment, Colorado for Family Values will continue to inform citizens about the impact of the homosexual agenda and what it means when militant activists promise to "educate, promote and build coalitions."

Perkins is the chairman of the executive board, Colorado for Family Values. Forum is open to readers who have expertise or personal experience in an area of public policy. Articles should be about 750 words in length and can be sent to: GT Forum, Gazette Telegraph, P.O. Box 1779, Colorado Springs, CO 80901.